

Step-Mothers.

If the pedigree of a prejudice could make it respectable, the popular sentiment against step-mothers might claim respect. Homer had his fling at the women who marry a widower with children: Virgil went out of his way to cast particularly hard and jagged stones at their defenselessness; Ovid accused them of such things that it were better their mothers had not borne them. Where these great ones denounced, lesser voices rallied; and the scandalizing of step-mothers gradually became as classic as many other stupidities and falsities.

Medieval literature accepted this conventional antiquity, precisely as it accepted other representations of women handed down from those mighty ages, without question as to their probability or naturalness. It was enough for reviving intelligence to learn what had been thought, without thinking on its own account. But it is a little hard that the books of modern times, and especially the novels of our own day, which go everywhere, and present to many people the only mental impressions they receive, should echo the jests of Ovid without their wit, or the slanders of Virgil without their brilliancy.

The matrons of antiquity who pointed the moral for detraction were never heard in their own behalf, and may have been neither so fierce nor so frisky as the poets delighted to draw them. Besides, the offending dames of Homer, the half-savage princesses of Thebes, the slow-witted farmers' wives of Epiphany, were hardly of the same humanity with the fine-fibred womanhood of to-day. Shall, therefore, some sensitive soul, doing her best for the happiness of her husband's children, be dismayed by cheap jests, stale two thousand years ago, or by detraction, which repeats the comments of scandal-mongers dead before the Ionian immigration.

What is there in the contact with tender orphans to harden a woman's heart against them? If she have babies of her own, her love for them, her longing to live for their sakes, teach her what bitterness of parting, what pangs of apprehension, the dead mother must have known, and touch her spirit to unspeakable compassion for the motherless children given to her to rear. If she be childless, then that instinct of maternity which lives in nearly every woman's heart, and must be satisfied, reaches out naturally, almost inevitably, toward her husband's children, for his sake hardly more than for theirs. In families where the children of the first wife are too young to remember her with regret, when the step-mother comes to them it is the rule, and not the exception, that they love their new protector with a love that makes no abatement, and are perhaps happier than they would have been had their own mother lived.

For we maintain that the popular image of the step-mother is so far a phantom, a mere figment of the imagination, that a man's second wife is likely to be a much higher type of woman than his first. Beauty, grace of manner, the most perishable and accidental charms, enchant the boy-lover, and make him the husband. When his girl-wife becomes the mother of his children, folly is not thereby translated into wisdom; and if she be compact of follies, however pretty and well-behaved, her spring will suffer for that combination. Does anybody doubt that Agnes would have made a far better mother for Dora's baby, had it lived, than that poor, sweet-faced, loving, silly, altogether charming simpton? And Agnes is the woman whom the Davids, in their thoughtful prime, would choose.

Step-mothers are impatient, unjust, unable to see its conduct from the child's point of view, we are told. Are mothers, then, so uniformly patient, just, full of loving imagination? Their children fret them, bore them, offend against them innocently, and are sharply and unfairly punished constantly. But their love is taken for granted by a censorious world, and very likely a perverse generation praises their "discipline." Against the laws of the step-mother the young offender may trespass seventy times seven times, and if her voice be harsh at the seventy-first infraction, all the child's surviving relatives on the maternal side openly pity him, or with ostentatious forbearance, "with arms encumbered thus, or this head-shake, or by pronouncing of some doubtful phrase," aid and comfort the rebel vastly more than by espousal of his cause.

We mean merely to assert that the world is peopled by human beings. Maternity comes by nature, but motherhood is the fruit of grace. It is as likely to be the possession of some maiden aunt, of some childless matron, of some misunderstood step-mother, as of her who has suffered in travail. Children are wearing, and those who have them in keeping are worn. The temper of the race is not flawless, and the list is short of our own acquaintances who are too patient, too tolerant, and too just. But it is unfair, it is monstrous, to condemn a whole class of women to reprobation, and assume their guilt as well, for a kind of offenses which we do not even comment upon when another class of women commits them. The tale runs that the Queen of Sheba compassed the death of her step-son by extremely unpleasant and underhand means. But Medea, on the other hand, killed her own innocent children because their father had offended her, got on comfortably in very high society afterward, and finally received divine honors. Which illustrates, perhaps, the average verdict on the conduct of mothers and step-mothers.

It is said that second wives are jealous of the pale ghost of their predecessors, and visit this jealousy on their children. Women ought eagerly to confute this libel upon their sex. It is often true that older children are jealous of the new mother; but this is usually because they are taught this doubt by those whom they love. Selfish and jealous women will be bad step-mothers, as they will be bad mothers. But the proportion of selfish and jealous women is not inordinate, and the great host of self-denying, helpful and loving step-mothers ought not to suffer vicariously contumely. Their place is not an enviable one. But in that future when the voice of common-sense shall silence the voice of tradition, it is certain that men and women will be ashamed to jeer at one of the most difficult attempts, at one of the most defenceless classes, of women.—Harper's Bazar.

FARM AND FIRESIDE.

—Encourage the little wrens by building suitable boxes for them. They are invaluable as insect destroyers.

—Peanuts for Desert.—Shell roasted nuts, remove the skins, heat them until they are crisp in a hot oven, sprinkle them with salt and serve them hot with the dessert. Sherry or Madeira wine is usually taken with them.—N. Y. Times.

—A correspondent of the N. E. Farmer suggests that employers who have the best welfare of their children at heart will see that no hired man is engaged who uses profane or vulgar language.

—House Plants.—These sometimes, it is said, cause malaria, the damp earth in the pots being the cause of unwholesomeness, but in a well ventilated room one need apprehend no trouble from the presence of house plants.—N. Y. Tribune.

—President Henry Villard intends, it is said, to build "a warehouse elevator" at each station along the Northern Pacific Railway into which farmers can dump and hold their grain "instead of being compelled to place themselves at the mercy of the local merchants who buy wheat at prices fixed by themselves, simply because they control the storage capacity of the road."—N. Y. Tribune.

—Chamois skins may be thus cleaned: Rub plenty of soft soap into the leather and put it to soak for two hours in a weak solution of soda and warm water, rub it well till it is clean and rinse it in warm water in which a little soda and soap have been dissolved. Wring it well in a towel and dry quickly, then pull it and brush it till it is perfectly soft.

—For Whitewash.—Slake one peck of lime, and while hot and at the thickness of cream, add a pint of linseed oil and a quarter pound of dissolved glue. Let it stand half a day before using. This, for interior walls, is far superior to simple lime and water. It is also first-rate for out-door work, though expensive. For buildings, fences, etc., slake clean, white, fresh lime under water; add a pound of sulphate of zinc to every peck of lime, and half a pound of salt. The addition of yellow ochre will make it a cream color; amber gives it a fawn color, and lampblack a gray shade. These coloring ingredients are not expensive. The lampblack should be dissolved in vinegar before mixing in.—Indianapolis Journal.

Prairie Hay.

During the pioneer days of this country many of the early settlers who still survive had ample opportunity of testing the superior qualities of prairie hay, as compared with timothy, millet, Hungarian, etc. Indeed, for several years wild grasses were the main dependence for that universal and indispensable article, hay. In those days every man possessed of the slightest thrift or enterprise was sure to have an abundant supply of upland or bottom grass, or perhaps both, stacked about his premises, preparatory to passing through one of those terrific winters, which of late years are of very rare occurrence.

The horses, cattle and sheep which fed on prairie hay were generally healthier and less liable to diseases, considering the many disadvantages existing in that day, than to stock that enjoy the devices and facilities of to-day for pampering and deceiving, even though they luxuriate on the best of timothy, millet, Hungarian, or clover hay. Having seen the various good results produced by the exclusive use of prairie hay, particularly upland or blue-stem, I do not hesitate in pronouncing it far superior to any other kind of prepared grasses. But especially do I recommend and favor the use of prairie hay for horses, inasmuch as it is, in one very important consideration, not the only one, but prominent among the many, namely: almost entirely free from several species of flies, dust and mold. I have seen as good timothy hay, millet hay, Hungarian hay, clover hay, and clover mixed with timothy, which is a very common thing here as elsewhere, perhaps as good as is generally grown, and I have never yet seen a hundred pounds of these named varieties but what were more or less dusty, and not unfrequently musty or moldy. All who have the care and management of horses know how exceedingly obnoxious and injurious such hay is, and how its natural tendencies to promote various peculiar diseases or ailments; and how the horse with the orthodox sustenance and treatment of to-day, is absolutely subject to the thousand and one diseases that were comparatively unknown in the days of prairie hay and pioneer accommodations.

The unnatural, yet at the same time very essential, condition of the surface of the soil, which is required to produce the tame grasses, renders it wholly impossible to have hay that will compare favorably with wild hay. Prairie hay, if properly harvested, will retain its original purity and sweetness for a very great length of time, and contains sufficient nutritive and life-sustaining qualities as to render it the hay for horses.—Cor. Germantown Telegraph.

A Hint to Housekeepers.

A retail butcher in New York says "The New York public haven't much discrimination. I often laugh at the foolish way in which people will rush for the most expensive cuts. Everybody wants to buy prime rib roasts and porterhouse and sirloin steaks, with plenty of tenderloin. You can't persuade them that the chuck roast of good beef, which is from five to eight cents a pound cheaper than the prime cut, is just as good eating. And you couldn't make them believe if you took your affidavit to it, that while the tenderloin may be tender, it is neither as nutritious nor as juicy as the round. You have no idea how nearly unanimous is the demand for these particular pieces. We often have difficulty in selling the other portions of the beef, which is just as good, at half the price. Even when we put it down to less than it costs us on the hoof, when we have a large stock to carry, we can scarcely sell it. Beef is going to be still higher, and if you'll take a hint from me you can save money by buying chuck roasts of good beef which has been kept ten days in the ice-house, and steaks from the tender side of the round or from the end of the loin. It's just the same with mutton. Everybody wants the rack for broiling. Now, there's only about ten or twelve pounds of rack in the whole sheep, and of course it's dear. We can't give away the neck and end pieces of the 'she sometimes' "

Salem's Departed Glory.

It has been forty years since a full-rigged ship entered the ancient harbor of Salem, Mass., until last Sunday afternoon, when a vessel of this sort came proudly to anchor off the little town, sailing from Calcutta. It was like a vision of the Flying Dutchman to the old residents, and of course created a good deal of excitement. Salem was formerly the seat of the Oriental trade of the United States, and the town numbered among its residents some of the most wealthy families of the Union. The East India trade was profitable then, and what was not gained in that trade might be picked up by judicious pilfering. Many spacious mansions, built from such profits, still line the streets; but the builders and their children have departed, and little remains to tell of Salem's glory. The brick Custom-house, described by Hawthorne, still stands, but the duties of the dwellers therein are few, and when the big ship entered the port on Sunday they stared like Rip Van Winkle, awakened from a twenty-years nap.—Boston Herald.

—Here's the worst yet: "A man in Berks County, Pa., has worn a pair of stockings constantly for thirteen years." Pretty durable stockings, but we should think they would soon need washing. Health journals say that stockings should be changed at least once a year, on sanitary grounds alone.—The Household.

—A woman was committed for contempt of court by a New York Police Justice because of her refusal to take an oath or testify in a case of assault. "Judge," said she, "I never took an oath in my life, and I'm not going to take one now. These people can settle their difficulties without calling me in."—N. Y. Star.

—A dozen or more lawyers are engaged in the \$3,000,000 Burr will contest in New York. It's a big pile to tackle, but they can get away with a good share of it.—New Haven Register.

Persons suffering for any great length of time from constipation must not be surprised to find themselves afflicted, sooner or later, by such annoying symptoms as sores, blotches, pimples, impure blood, headache, loss of memory, universal lassitude, kidney affections, bad dreams, etc. Evacuation of the bowels should become a daily habit, in fact, the one of the first laws of nature, and its observance is essential to good health and longevity. When this function, through neglect, intemperance, gluttony or vicious indulgence, becomes deranged, Dr. Guyot's Yellow Dock and Sarsaparilla should be used to strengthen the bowels, and its use will permanently cure the severest cases of constipation of the bowels and all liver and kidney ailments, and give vigor and blood and strengthen every part of the body. It is as pleasant as wine to the taste. Ask your druggist to get it for you.

Glass eyes for horses are now made with such effect that the animal himself cannot see through the deception.

J. M. MORRISON, of Monroe, O., writes: "I was badly afflicted with salt rheum, scrofula, and other syphilitic symptoms of blood poisoning. I took Dr. Guyot's Yellow Dock and Sarsaparilla, frequently aggravated by continued constipation. My employer recommended me to use Dr. Guyot's Yellow Dock and Sarsaparilla. It has accomplished a miraculous change, every symptom of bad blood has disappeared, and my bowels now have regular action, and the piles have not troubled me since."

A MAGAZINE article is entitled "The Arrival of Man in Europe," referring to the first arrival in that country. He must have felt lost and lonely and was prodigiously puzzled to know which hotel to put up at; but the probabilities are that he was not surrounded by a howling mob of hack drivers upon his arrival, and saluted with "Havoc! Rightabout! Turn! Turn! Turn!" etc.—Burlington Hawkeye.

A Good Housewife. The good housewife, when she is giving her house its spring renovating, should bear in mind that the most common cause of more precious than many houses, and that their systems need cleansing by purifying the blood, regulating the stomach and bowels to prevent and cure the diseases arising from impure blood, and she should know that there is nothing that will do it so perfectly and surely as Hop Bitters, the purest and best of medicines.—Concord N. H. Patriot.

A LAWYER who climbs up on a chair after a law-book gets a little higher in order that he may get a little lore.

—Middle men are often but middle-aged men. There are a "middle" about Kidney-Wort. It is the most thoroughly refined "flower" of medicine. It knows no half-way measures, but radically cures all diseases of the kidneys, liver and bowels. It overthrows piles, abolishes constipation and treats the system so gently and soothingly as to prove its true kinship to nature in all its phases. It is prepared in both liquid and dry form.

RECOMMENDED mustard plaster is now recognized as a necessary feature of aesthetic medication.

THE MARKETS.

NEW YORK, May 20, 1892.	
CATTLE—Exports.....	\$12 15
GUTTON—Middling.....	12 15
FLOUR—Good to Choice.....	6 00 9 00
WHEAT—No. 2 Red.....	1 44 1 45
No. 3 Spring.....	1 35 1 36
CORN—No. 2.....	45 85
OATS—Western Mixed.....	63 85
POKE—Standard Meal.....	19 00 19 50
ST. LOUIS.	
COTTON—Middling.....	13 13
BEEVES—Choice.....	7 30 8 00
Fair to Good.....	6 50 7 00
Native Cows.....	7 25 7 50
Texas Steers.....	4 00 6 00
HOGS—Common to Select.....	6 00 8 20
SHEEP—Fair to Choice.....	4 00 4 25
FLOUR—No. 2 to Choice.....	7 40 8 50
WHEAT—No. 2 Winter.....	1 30 1 31
No. 3.....	1 20 1 21
CORN—No. 2 Mixed.....	78 79
OATS—No. 2.....	75 76
RYE—No. 2.....	75 76
TOBACCO—Dark Leaf.....	4 75 5 50
Medium Dark Leaf.....	4 50 5 00
HAY—Choice Timothy.....	21 00 22 00
BUTTER—Choice Dairy.....	30 32
EGGS—Choice.....	15 17
POKE—Standard Meal.....	19 00 19 50
BACON—Clear Rib.....	11 1/2 11 3/4
LARD—Prime Steam.....	11 11 1/2
WOOL—Tub-washed, medium.....	35 36
Unwashed.....	33 35
CHICAGO.	
CATTLE—Exports.....	7 00 7 75
HOGS—Good to Choice.....	7 00 8 00
SHEEP—Good to Choice.....	6 00 7 00
FLOUR—Winter.....	6 00 7 00
Spring.....	5 00 7 00
WHEAT—No. 2 Spring.....	1 25 1 34
No. 3 Spring.....	1 15 1 16
CORN—No. 2.....	77 78
OATS—No. 2.....	52 53
RYE.....	77 78
POKE—New Meal.....	19 00 19 50
KANSAS CITY.	
CATTLE—Native Steers.....	5 50 6 00
HOGS—Native Cows.....	4 00 5 00
WHEAT—No. 2.....	1 18 1 19
No. 3.....	98 99
CORN—No. 2.....	53 54
OATS—No. 2.....	53 54
NEW ORLEANS.	
FLOUR—High Grades.....	6 40 7 25
Low Grades.....	6 00 6 50
OATS—Choice.....	62 64
HAY—Choice.....	25 00 30 00
POKE—Meal.....	19 75 20 00
COTTON—Middling.....	13 13

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Dr. FRENCH.—A neighbor of ours was suffering from "female weakness," which the doctor told her could not be cured without a supporter. After considerable persuasion my wife induced her to try my "Favorite Prescription." After using one bottle she threw away the supporter and did a large washing, which she had not done in two years before. JAMES MILLER, 4246 Jacob Street, Wheeling, W. Va.

What is the difference between a new policeman and an old hat? One is worn in and the other's worn out.—Toronto Grip.

If your lungs are almost wasted by consumption Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery will not cure you, yet as a remedy for severe coughs, and all curable bronchial, throat and lung affections, it is unsurpassed. Send two stamps for Dr. Pierce's large pamphlet treatise on Consumption and Kindred Affections. Address WORLD'S DISPENSARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, Buffalo, N. Y.

A SCIENTIST says "a big comet is now dashing toward a spotted sun." Its aim, no doubt, is to "knock the spots off it."

In the matter of disordered nerves, Boston girls suffer no more than those of other cities. There are painful sensibilities that nothing can cure so thoroughly as Dr. Benson's Celery and Chamomile Pills, and every nervous girl should use them. Dr. Benson is also discoverer of a new remedy and his favorite prescription, for all diseases of the Skin and Scalp. It is known as Dr. Benson's Skin Cure.

A DISAPPOINTED young man says he wishes he was a rumor, because a rumor soon gains currency, which he has never been able to do.

Woman and Her Diseases is the title of a large illustrated treatise, by Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y., sent to any address for three stamps. It teaches successful self-treatment.

THE editors have struck. So we are informed by a gentleman with a spring coat and a black eye.—Boston Commercial Bulletin.

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QUEEN VICTORIA's favorite food is boiled mutton; but, as she is a staid old lady, she objects to capers.—Somerville Journal.

No family dyes were ever so popular as the Diamond Dyes. They never fail. Any one can use them. The Black is far superior to logwood.

A MANUFACTURER advertises: "The strongest and most honest bed in the market." He must mean an onion bed.—Northwestern Herald.

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What word in the English language possesses the greatest number of one particular letter? "Possession."

"ROUGH ON RATS." Clears out rats, mice, roaches, bed-bugs, gophers, chipmunks. 15c.

What religion is most prevalent in spring? Buddhism.

DEALERS are beginning to see that it is better to go with the tide than to swim against it. By selling the Charter Oak Range they are helped in selling other things. 10-4

Enterprise Extraordinary.

Most of our readers, if not all, will remember that a little over a year ago the magnificent structure at Buffalo, N. Y., known as Pierce's Invalids' Hotel, was entirely destroyed by fire. We doubt, however, if many of those who saw notice of the configuration at the time are prepared for the announcement, just made by the proprietors, that since that occurrence another structure, six stories high and one hundred feet square, has been completed, and that it is now open for the reception of patients. Yet such is the fact.

In the erection and furnishing of this massive and elegant building, nothing has been omitted that would in any manner tend to benefit the afflicted, or to add to their comfort. Ten physicians and surgeons, eminent in their respective specialties, constitute the professional staff of the institution, and persons suffering from chronic and other ailments will doubtless find here a veritable Invalid's Home. All inquiries as to terms, etc., receive prompt attention, and should be addressed to World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N. Y.

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